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Letter dated 8 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an answer given by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 8 March 2017 with regard to the fact that the U.S. and its vassal forces are moving to take issue with the ballistic rocket launch drill staged by the Korean People's Army (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-03915 (E) 160317

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Annex to the letter dated 8 March 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Answer by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 8 March 2017 given to a question raised by the Korean Central News Agency as regards the fact that the U.S. and its vassal forces are moving to take issue with the ballistic rocket launch drill staged by the Korean People's Army

The ballistic rocket launch drill conducted by the Hwasong artillery units of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA) this time is a routine one to resolutely frustrate the ever-more undisguised nuclear war racket of the U.S. and other hostile forces and honourably defend the security of the country and nation.

The U.S. and south Korean puppet forces kicked off joint military manoeuvres aimed at a pre-emptive nuclear strike against DPRK, only to push the situation to the brink of a nuclear war.

It is a just the self-defensive right of a sovereign State to keep a high alert, as required by the grim situation in which an actual war may break out at any time, and to consolidate a powerful deterrence in every way to mercilessly wipe out the aggressors.

Nevertheless, the U.S. and other hostile forces are openly conducting the drills for a real war aimed at a pre-emptive nuclear strike against DPRK by mobilizing lots of strategic assets and armed forces.

They let the Security Council release a press statement, labelling KPA's routine drill as "threat". It is a brigandish act, like a thief crying, "Stop, thief!"

DPRK categorically rejects the press statement of the Security Council, as it wantonly violates a sovereign State's right to self-defence.

It is the unanimous view of the fair-minded international community that the largest-ever nuclear war drills launched by the U.S., in league with the south Korean puppet forces, are the root cause of pushing DPRK to take the toughest action.

DPRK has already clarified several times that the joint military drills are potentially dangerous, as they will wreck peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and screw up regional tensions. So, it filed a complaint with the Security Council against the war games this time, too.

How to deal with the complaint and the ill-intended manoeuvres of the U.S. and its vassal forces will be a marked occasion for the Security Council to show the international community whether it regards its mission to preserve global peace and security as fulfilling its responsibility or not.

As already clarified, KPA will reduce the bases of aggression and provocation to ashes with its invincible Hwasong rockets tipped with nuclear warheads and reliably defend the security of the country and its people's happiness in case the

U.S. and the south Korean puppet forces fire even a single bullet at the territory of DPRK.

DPRK will certainly preserve its peace and security with its own efforts and positively contribute to protecting global peace and security.